



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

intended to represent, nor lend artistic charm to the page, since they are equally vile, whether meant for pictures only or for ornithological drawings. As startling examples, we may mention the figures on pp. 737, 760, 817, and 997, labeled, respectively, Golden Plover, Passenger Pigeon, Snowy Owl, and Tree Swallow. It is also to be regretted that any of the woodcuts from Brehm's *Thierleben* (pp. 606, 1001) should still be used in an American book, after all that has been written about them. Otherwise the book, which has several interesting introductory chapters and an exhaustive bibliography, is gotten up very well and takes a high rank among similar works.

LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

Trouessart's Catalogue of Mammals, Living and Extinct.¹—Mammalogists owe to Dr. Trouessart a large debt of gratitude for his Catalogue of Recent and Extinct Mammals, the publication of which is now nearing completion, four of the five fasciculi having already appeared. Considering the magnitude and difficulties of the task, the work is well done; we detect few omissions, and the number of clerical and typographical errors is not greater than is natural to expect in a work of this character. The classification followed is essentially that of Flower and Lydekker's "Introduction to the Study of Mammals," but the order of treatment is reversed, Dr. Trouessart beginning with the Primates and ending with the Monotremes.

No one can be expected to have expert knowledge of all the varied forms of even the class mammalia in this period of rapid advance in the discovery of new forms and of the relationships of hitherto obscurely known types. As the work before us is essentially bibliographical, serving as a systematic index to the species, genera, and higher groups of the mammalia, a few slips here and there in the allocation of species and subspecies, genera and subgenera, can readily be overlooked in view of the utility of this immense undertaking. The specialist will not be misled by the occasional lapses he may detect in the case of groups he has especially investigated, and they can hardly detract from the general usefulness and convenience of a work which will prove an enduring monument to the patience, industry, and scientific acumen of its author.

¹ *Catalogus Mammalium tam Viventium quam fossilium* a Doctore E. L. Trouessart, Parisiis. Nova Editio (Prima completa). Berolini: R. Friedländer & Sohn, 8vo. Fasc. i, Primates, Prosimiæ, Chiroptera, Insectivora, pp. 1-218, 1897; Fasc. ii, Carnivora, Pinnipedia, Rodentia, pp. 219-452, 1897; Fasc. iii, Rodentia, pp. 453-664, 1897; Fasc. iv, Tillodontia et Ungulata, pp. 665-998, 1898.

About 6000 species and 1183 genera, with probably nearly as many subspecies and subgenera, are marshaled in due order in the first four fasciculi aside from synonyms, with full bibliographical references to each, including not only the original place of description but nearly all of the more important subsequent references, including geographical references to localities. The labor involved in this compilation is thus beyond easy conception, and its value to Dr. Trouessart's fellow-workers is inestimable. J. A. A.

Generic and Family Names of Rodents.—Since the completion of that portion of Dr. Trouessart's *Catalogus Mammalium* treating of the Rodents, two important papers have appeared relating especially to the generic and family names of this numerous order of mammals. The first, by Mr. Oldfield Thomas, curator of mammals in the British Museum, is entitled "On the Genera of Rodents: an attempt to bring up to date the current arrangement of the order."¹ The other, by Dr. T. S. Palmer, of the Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, is entitled "A List of the Generic and Family Names of Rodents."²

As noted by Mr. Thomas, one of the most important previous papers on the same subject was Mr. Alston's "On the Classification of the Order Glires," published in 1876. Mr. Alston was extremely conservative in his views, recognizing only 18 families and 100 genera, as against 21 families and 159 genera admitted by Mr. Thomas. "Of the additional 59 genera," says Mr. Thomas, "just about one-half are formed by the breaking up of old genera, and half are altogether new discoveries." Many old names, however, have had to be changed to bring them into conformity with current rules of nomenclature. On this point Mr. Thomas says: "It is with the greatest regret that I have had to use a good many names unfamiliar to English naturalists, but the evidence in every case is so clear as to leave no room for doubt, and none are mere matters of opinion. Recognizing that the ultimate use of these names is inevitable, I think the sooner a knowledge of them is disseminated the sooner will the intermediate stage of confusion be passed through and done with." Not only are we glad to see so eminent an authority take this sensible position, but we are also gratified to find that he rejects emendations, using names in all cases as originally published by the author proposing them. A seriously disturbing element in the sta-

¹ *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London*, 1896, pp. 1012-28.

² *Proc. Biol. Society of Washington*, vol. xi (Dec. 7, 1897), pp. 241-70.